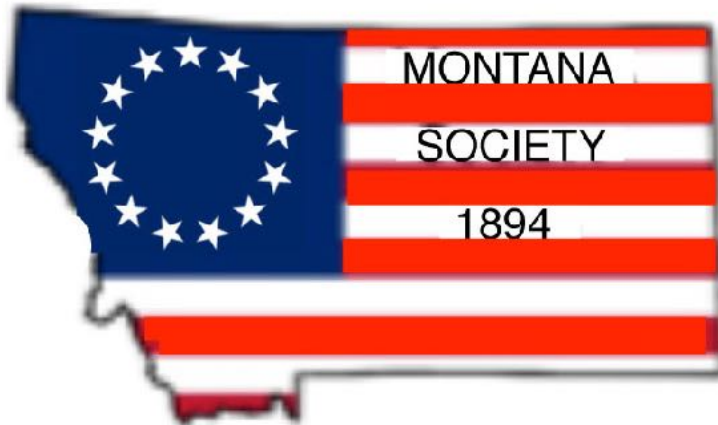


Sons of the American Revolution



Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution: A Brief History, 1894-2018

written and edited by Steve Armstrong, President - Glacier Chapter and V-P, MTSSAR

A group of men gathered in Helena, Montana on June 5, 1894, to organize and create the Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution. We are not aware of the extent to which they knew each other; however, we do know that they all had ancestors who fought in the American Revolution. Their goal was to honor those patriots by forming a Montana State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.



Among those gentlemen to arrive at this meeting was **Decius Wade** (State No. 009), an attorney originally from Ohio who was referred to as “the father of Montana jurisprudence.” Wade, a Civil War veteran, was appointed by President Grant to be the Chief Justice of the Montana Territorial Supreme Court, a position in which he served for sixteen years. While Wade’s legal opinions are an important component of Montana’s judicial history, he became known nationally when he changed Montana’s execution day from Friday to Thursday:

“I could not see but the fellow enjoyed it just as well as though Friday had been the day appointed, and I thought that poor abused Friday looked a little brighter the next morning.”

Wade almost didn’t fulfill his tenure as Territorial Supreme Court Chief Justice. In a frightening incident on October 4, 1884, Wade and his fellow passengers were nearly killed by a group of aggressive bandits while traveling by stagecoach from Boulder to Helena. The *Choteau Acantha* newspaper detailed a harrowing saga of masked bandits who stopped this coach

expecting to free a fellow prisoner who was supposed to be transferred from Boulder to Helena's jail. Instead, Wade and other gentlemen passengers were those on board. One of the passengers was randomly killed by a bandit before they dispersed. Wade ordered the coach to return to Boulder where he organized a posse to find the criminals.

Cephas Bateman (State No. 001) was an Army Chaplain who had been in service around the country and was in Montana only for a brief period of time, serving as a Chaplain at Fort Assinniboine, near Havre. Prior to the time of MTSSAR's organization, Bateman was stationed in Washington State, where he first became a member of SAR. MTSSAR has a digital copy of the document of Chaplain Bateman's request to leave the Washington State Society to join the Montana Society. Bateman remained in Montana only until 1897, when he was assigned to another military installation in Idaho. He eventually served overseas during the occupation of the Philippines until his return to the USA in the early twentieth century. His last post was in Fort Bayward, Texas, where he served to comfort soldiers who were suffering from tuberculosis.



William Wheeler was the compatriot who got the whole organization rolling when he was asked in 1890 by NSSAR to organize a society in Montana. Wheeler arrived in Montana by way of New York via Minnesota and service during the Civil War. Wheeler was appointed by President Grant to be United States Marshall of the Montana Territory, which, among other duties, made him responsible for the construction of the first territorial prison in Deer Lodge.

Wheeler was involved with the Montana State Historical Society when it became a state institution in 1884. Wheeler was appointed State Librarian and remained at that post until his death in June 1894, just after the Montana Society - SAR was created.

Wheeler was asked by NSSAR in 1890 to "introduce the order to the state." Wheeler relayed to the National Society that "he had looked over the ground enough to feel confident that there is a chance for a large membership."

Wheeler wrote on May 31, 1890: "A provisional committee, which met at Helena in April last, will give due notice and call a meeting of all applicants and others eligible, living in Montana, who shall wish to organize a State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution as an auxiliary to the National Society."

Another gentleman involved in the creation of MTSSAR was **Capt. John C. Dent** (State No. 006), a nephew of President and Mrs. Ulysses Grant, who was also assigned to Fort Assiniboine. Dent's exploits in Montana are partially detailed in some newspaper articles, one in the July 25, 1894, *River Press*, describing how Capt. Dent and several Companies of the infantry were ordered to Butte to assist with keeping the Northern Pacific railway open. This was during one of many labor strikes in Butte. Of special note in the *River Press* article was that only two Companies remained at Fort Assiniboine, "Co. I, the Indian Company of the 20th infantry, and one troop of the 10th, colored, cavalry."

Now, it was time to publicize and organize. Chaplain Bateman was tasked to send announcements to the various newspapers in Montana, the following from the *Fort Benton River Press* in May 15, 1894:

FORT ASSINNIBOINE, May 15.—To the descendants of men of the revolution, now in Montana, greeting:

By authority of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution, a convention is hereby called to meet in the rooms of the Historical Library at Helena, Montana, Tuesday, June 5th, 1894, for the purpose of organizing a Montana Society of Sons of the American Revolution.

All who have established their eligibility to membership in the proposed society are urged to be present or send proxies; all who have not as yet completed their proofs are earnestly requested to attend in order that valuable assistance may be rendered them; and all who believe themselves to be eligible, but are not informed as to the method of procedure by which data is obtained from historical archives are cordially invited to attend this convention.

It is the intention of those interested in this movement to draw together in a purely social and patriotic society all descendants of the heroic men who made successful resistance to the authority of Great Britain, and established on this continent our political independence and made permanently possible our cherished institutions of civil and religious liberty. Let us recall by organic union the struggles and sufferings of Lexington, Bunker Hill, Trenton and Valley Forge.

CEPHAS C. BATEMAN
Chaplain, U. S. Army.

Another announcement appeared in the May 17, 1894, *Great Falls Tribune*:

By authority of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, a convention is hereby called to meet in the rooms of the Historical library at Helena, Mont., Tuesday June 5, 1894, for the purpose of organizing a Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. C. C. Bateman, Chaplain U. S. Army.

With this publicity, those interested in and able to attend arrived in Helena to officially charter the Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution on June 5, 1894.

Membership primarily came from Helena and Fort Assiniboine, although there were other members from throughout the state. The 1895 National Society Yearbook lists these officers, who were also the Board of Managers:

LIST OF OFFICERS :

President, Decius S. Wade,	. . .	Helena.
Senior Vice President, John C. Dent,	. . .	Ft. Assiniboine.
Secretary, Robert H. Howey,	. . .	Helena.
Treasurer, James U. Sanders,	. . .	Helena.
Registrar, Cephas C. Bateman,	. . .	Ft. Assiniboine.

Other MTSSAR members were:

Charles J. Brackett,	. . . . .	Helena.
J. B. Collins,	. . . . .	Miles City.
Arthur J. Craven,	. . . . .	Helena.
Cornelius Hedges,	. . . . .	Helena.
Alan B. Murray,	. . . . .	Cokedale.
Charles T. Perry,	. . . . .	Helena.
James L. Rodgers,	. . . . .	Ft. Assiniboine.
Frederick Dent Sharpe,	. . . . .	Ft. Assiniboine.
Louis A. Walker,	. . . . .	Helena.
Almar P. Webster,	. . . . .	Helena.

As with any organization, once created, what should be done to celebrate the patriot ancestors? In 1896, MTSSAR President Charles Benton and Secretary H.H. Matheson organized the celebration of George Washington's birthday on February 22. The highlight of this celebration was the reading of historical essays submitted by students from around Montana. According to Benton, "The great idea of fostering the study of patriotic history was originated by this society; and the patriotic teachers and pupils of our schools have to the spirit in which it was created, with such zeal and energy, this method of educating our youth has become national." (*The Anaconda Standard*, November 20, 1896)

President Benton and Secretary Matheson implored principals and teachers to send only "meritorious essays." The tradition continued throughout the decade of the 1890s, the MTSSAR holding the celebration of George Washington's birthday and the essay contest.

Of interest throughout this decade in Montana newspapers were a number of articles related to the National Society SAR and other state societies from across the country. The Michigan Society held a special celebration in May 1899, inviting Secretary of War Russell Alger as a special guest of honor. The Michigan Society, apparently, broke out in celebration of having their native son as a guest. This was interpreted by the New York Society as a breach of political etiquette; that is, that the Michigan Society used their special guest for political purposes rather than to promote patriotism. (*The Anaconda Standard*, May 9, 1899)

The turn of the Twentieth Century witnessed continued activity in MTSSAR, coupled with the realization that MTSSAR growth was slower than anticipated.

Some activities still occurred; an example was a special gathering in Helena to celebrate the Battle of Cowpens, c. 1781, in the Carolinas. This gathering in Helena was publicized throughout the state including the March 1, 1901 edition of the *Dillon Tribune*.

The period of 1900 to about 1910 was a time of slow growth of the Montana Society. The 1902 SAR Yearbook included a brief report from MTSSAR, which stated that, "The past year has been without much of special interest to report." The report continued to point out that the annual celebration of Washington's birthday occurred during the annual meeting and that "A grandson of a Revolutionary soldier was present as a member . . . having ridden horseback over the mountain for sixty-five miles to be present at the meeting."

Essay contests continued throughout the decade, although submissions were sparse. Compatriot Edward Russell observed that the Montana Society could not make reports about celebrations of "monuments or preservation or historic spots" related to the Revolutionary War, but that the Montana Society shared the spirit of the Revolutionary War with other national societies that had such history in their midst. (1903 NSSAR Yearbook)

A surprising news article written by Mrs. Donald McLean appeared in newspapers around the country, and in Montana was printed in the *Big Timber Pioneer* on December 5, 1907. Mrs. McLean described how the Revolutionary War patriotic societies came into existence in the late 19th century and how their popularity had expanded.

But one facet was her description of how women had asked the National Society - SAR to accept women as members of their society. This was soundly rejected by the leadership of NSSAR, which prompted the women to create their own Daughters of the American Revolution in 1890. A section of Mrs. McLean's article is shown below:

Of these "The Sons" and "Daughters of the American Revolution" are the most prominent and numerous in membership. In connecting the title "Sons and Daughters" the writer does that which the "Sons" themselves declined to do, the latter thus exhibiting a lack of that "seeing vision" which Du Maurier proclaims a priceless gift. In other words, the "Sons" did not foresee that a declination to receive the feminine descendants of revolutionary sires would deprive the society Sons of the American Revolution of an able, ardent and achieving element. Therefore it came about that the society Sons of the American Revolution, organized in 1889, exists as one organization and the Daughters of the American Revolution as another.

With the true, clinging nature of women's hearts, the feminine descendants of the revolutionary patriots appealed to the Sons of the American Revolution to be taken within the protecting fold of the masculine society! The latter, however, displayed no embrative inclination and threw the women back upon their own pride and their own resources.

The result was that in October, 1890, there was organized the national society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The growth and activity of the latter body would seem almost incomprehensible were it not to be remembered that the spirits of the men who "made and preserved us a nation" inspire the souls of their descendants; and woman's enthusiasm, when awakened, outstrips all other and reaches, on flying feet, the goal of high endeavor. The Sons of the American Revolution number several thousand—probably under 10,000. The Daughters of the American Revolution over 30,000.

By 1905, a name that appeared in the annual reports of the Montana Society - SAR was **Leslie Sulgrove** (State No. 059), who served in various capacities in the Montana Society for well-over twenty-five years. Originally from Indiana, Compatriot Sulgrove arrived in Montana in 1879 and lived in various locations prior to settling in Helena. He held many positions in Helena, including as a newspaper editor and as editor of "The Stockman's Journal." He was also chiefly responsible for creating Helena's municipal water system. Compatriot Sulgrove held national offices in the NSSAR and as Secretary-Treasurer of the MTSSAR for nearly three decades. Sulgrove also served as President of MTSSAR in 1912, 1913, and 1920.



The turn of the century caused an uproar due to coming "reinterpretations" of the American Revolutionary War and the motives of the Founding Fathers. One article suggested that members of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution were nothing more than "hero worshippers" who were shocked to "learn that many revolutionary soldiers were deserters and bounty jumpers and . . . that a British soldier had been scalped at the Battle of Lexington." (*Daily Missoulian*, February 4, 1912)

Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution remained unfazed and continued their mission to advocate patriotism and to tell the story of how our patriot ancestors fought to create this new nation.

MTSSAR lobbied in the Montana Legislature for a law that would prohibit "flag desecration," specifically to "prohibit the use of Flag . . . for advertising purposes, its mutilation, defacement, defilement, etc." A loophole was provided in the proposed law to allow for use of the flag as supported by U.S. law and regulations of the Army and Navy. (NSSAR Yearbook, 1912).

At the annual meeting in Helena on February 22, 1912, President Leslie Sulgrove gave a special presentation about the "Sulgrove Manor House" in England, which dated back the early-1500s and remained in the Sulgrove family until the manor was sold to probable ancestors of George Washington.

Another special presentation was given by **Compatriot H.B. Palmer** detailing the "enthusiastic work of patriotic women during the Revolution." Mr. Palmer served as a President of MTSSAR. A long-time visitor to and well-known in Big Timber, Palmer died suddenly in Helena in 1915. (*Big Timber Pioneer*, January 14, 1915)

Membership in the Montana Society - SAR remained at about 25-30 members for a period of several years.

The major presentation during the 1914 annual meeting in Helena concerned the "commercialization" of textbooks used in the schools. Compatriot Howey of Miles City spoke at

length regarding his concern that patriotism was being written out of textbooks. Compatriot Crane told of the need for character building within the family, rather than in the schools: “good character was the foundation of the nation’s greatness, and the only way this could be secured was in good family training.” (NSSAR Yearbook, 1914).



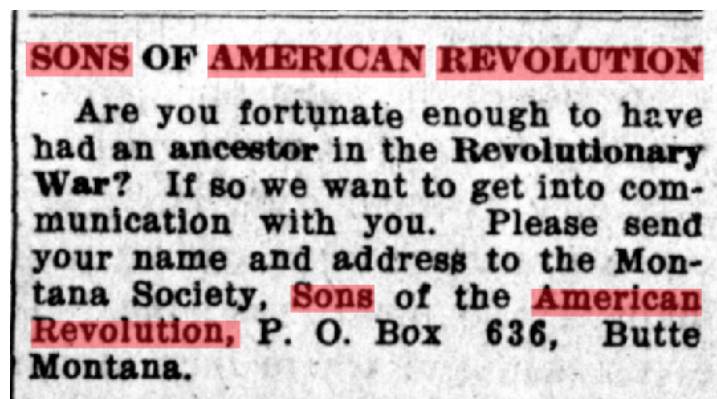
W. W. McDOWELL,
Lieutenant Governor of Montana.

An issue that plagued the National Society - SAR was a lack of successful recruitment in some state societies, Montana included. At the 1916 Congress, **Montana Lt. Gov. and MTSSAR Vice-President W.W. McDowell** suggested that “much could be accomplished in Montana if an organizer familiar with the methods of securing new members could be sent to the state” to assist in obtaining new recruits. (NSSAR Yearbook, 1916) It appeared that no action was taken on McDowell’s proposal.

The next few years were occupied with World War I. Both the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution promoted patriotic activities in support of the war effort.

Recruitment efforts continued, as MTSSAR sent out press releases to various Montana newspapers encouraging those who might qualify to seek membership.

Mineral Independent, April 12, 1917



At the annual meeting in Helena in honor of George Washington’s birthday, MTSSAR President McDowell gave toasts in honor of Washington, asking in regards to the present world situation “What would Washington have done?” (*The Roundup Record*, March 1, 1918)

There is a gap in MTSSAR history during the decade of the Roaring Twenties. Articles dealing with the national societies of both DAR and SAR appeared in several Montana newspapers. This doesn’t mean that none existed, but that digital copies available on-line from the Montana Historical Society didn’t have any articles of local MTSSAR interest.

NSSAR President-General Judge H.F. Remington visited the Helena Chapter of MTSSAR in July of 1925. (*Dillon Tribune*, July 10, 1925)

Judge H. F. Remington of Rochester, N. Y., president of the Sons of the American Revolution, visited the Helena chapter while making a tour of encampments of the west. He is accompanied by his wife.

The 1930s, however, were a different story. MTSSAR Secretary Leslie Sulgrove sent press releases to newspapers throughout Montana calling for a “state-wide observance of the 199th anniversary of the birth of George Washington.” Even though Washington’s birthday celebration occurred on a Sunday in 1931, Compatriot Sulgrove urged members and citizens to use this day to recognize that Washington was a “churchman. He was eminently a righteous man . . . [who was] profoundly governed by his religious convictions.” (*Choteau Acantha*, February 19, 1931)

That same year, Compatriot Sulgrove was elected Vice-President of NSSAR. (*Choteau Acantha*, May 28, 1931)

Compatriot Sulgrove urged the “observance of Constitution Day, which was Saturday, September 17, 1932. On behalf of the Montana Society - SAR, Montana Gov. Erickson “issued a proclamation designating that day as Constitution Day and urging special observances.” Compatriot Sulgrove reiterated that “Constitution Day . . . reminds us of the rock upon which our proud nation has stood and grown throughout the years.” (*Choteau Acantha*, September 8, 1932)

Once again, issues of NSSAR concern were detailed in Montana newspapers. One of those dealt with the poster titled “The Spirit of 1776.”



The article described how “99 of every 100 persons who have seen replicas of [this] famous painting . . . are under the impression that it was done during or soon after the Revolutionary War.” But in reality, the painting was completed in the 1870s by Archibald Willard from Ohio. (*Dillon Tribune*, June 29, 1933)

Additional celebrations of Constitution Day continued during the 1930s.

<p>State Superintendent Desires Observance of Constitutional Day</p> <p>County Superintendent of Schools Inez Eckford has received a copy of a circular sent to all superintendents and principals of schools calling attention to the sesquicentennial of the constitution of the United States which is on September 17. The state department of education has directed that all schools in the state “observe the day by conducting appropriate exercises.”</p> <p>The letter continues: “The Sons of the American Revolution are inaugurating a program to begin September 17 and continue until April 30, 1939, that will commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of many vital events in the beginnings of our nation.</p>	<p>“Mr. Leslie Sulgrave, Montana Secretary of the Sons of the American Revolution, has requested that all schools partake in this celebration.</p> <p>“The primary aim of education is to equip children with those essentials that will train them for good citizenships. There is no better way to accomplish this goal than the studying of the historical events and the instilling of an appreciation of the inheritance that the founders of this great United States have bequeathed to the present generation. The observance of “Constitution Day” gives the schools of Montana an ideal starting place.”</p>
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Choteau Acantha, September 16, 1937

A fitting tribute to long-term MTSSAR member Leslie Sulgrove was printed in the *Helena Independent Record* on December 25, 1938, just a few months before Sulgrove’s death in 1939 at the age of eighty-five.

Sulgrove told a great story of his first Christmas dinner in Montana in 1880, eaten at a Chinese restaurant. Sulgrove explained that “most men carried guns. I carried one of the things myself until nothing happened and I quit because it was a bother to carry around.”

As the decade of the 1940s started, war was already a reality in Europe, and World War II in its totality was just around the corner, coming in December 1941.

NSSAR Trustee Clinton Ross visited with troops in training in Seattle, Washington, and noted that they appeared homesick and lonely. “. . . you can appreciate the feelings of Montana boys now in Camp Murray, doing their one-year hitch in Uncle Sam’s military conscription program. Their appeal is for letters and then more letters.” Compatriot Ross noted that the young men were “in need of some expression of appreciation for the service that are doing for their country.” (*Choteau Acantha*, January 2, 1941)

During the 1950s and 1960s, one could find scattered articles about individuals elected to office in SAR, but articles about major initiatives or other such items were not available in the on-line archives.

There was an article about the Daughters of the American Revolution annual state conference in Anaconda in March 1967, where "all Sons of the American Revolution and men qualified and their wives are invited to the no-host banquet." (*Dillon Daily Tribune*, March 7, 1967)

Part of the dilemma with the Montana Society - SAR was that it went into a period of dormancy and was declassified, with no real explanation given as to why this occurred other than a lack of activity and interest. This changed in 1971, when NSSAR Vice-President Mark Farris visited Bozeman to resurrect the Montana Society - SAR.

LBJ Eligible to Become Charter Member of Local S.A.R. Society

The 194th member of Montana's newly reactivated Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is an illustrious one — due to his own efforts as well as his ancestor's.

Carroll Henderson, acting president of the Society, has announced that former President Lyndon Baines Johnson of Johnson City, Texas, has transferred his membership from the Virginia Society to the Montana organization.

Henderson, who is active in the organization of a local SAR Society, said: "We'll be ex-

tending an invitation to the former President to become a charter member of the local Society. As a member of the Montana Society, he is eligible. He will, of course, receive notice of all meetings and so on and perhaps he'll choose to attend."

The Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was established in 1891, the 12th such Society in the country. It has been inactive for some years, however, a state meeting was called June 16 by Mark Farris, vice president of the National Society of the SAR,

and the Montana Society was reactivated. Bozemanites Carroll Henderson and Irvin Hintzpeter, Jr., were elected acting president and treasurer respectively.

At this meeting, it was decided to form a local Society of the SAR for interested, eligible men of this area. Robert Van Woert was elected president pro tem and Hintzpeter secretary-treasurer of the local group.

To become a member of the SAR, a person must be descended from an ancestor who fought in or contributed to the cause of the American battle for independence during the Revolutionary War. He must have documented proof of his lineage, such as Bible or courthouse records, and be sponsored by two members of the Society.

Henderson noted that the Montana Society has a far-flung membership. "The member who just precedes President Johnson in the Society's rolls is an embassy official in Bern, Switzerland."

Any interested man can obtain further information about becoming a charter member of the local Society by calling Henderson, 586-9595; Van Woert, 587-8482; or Ralph Gilchrist, 586-9643.

National #: 98674 or 98675

State #: 194

Patriot: John Johnson

Date Approved: 30 DEC 1971

Carroll Henderson (State No. 192) was the gentleman who embraced the responsibility of building a new Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution from scratch. Compatriot Henderson utilized the assistance of Montana Society DAR Registrar Inez Hecox to assist completing applications for membership. He also relied on the assistance of Compatriots Howard Thompson, Ervin Hinzpeter, and after 1972, Jim Paugh.



Fortunately for Montana Society - SAR, Compatriot Henderson left a detailed history of how he recreated the Society in Montana, and left valued words of wisdom about how our society should continue to grow and succeed. This article will take the liberty of including Compatriot Henderson's entire history, which he wrote in 2004.

The History I Know about of the Montana Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

by Carroll V. Henderson, January 2004

In 1972 I decided I wished to seek membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. I applied to the National Headquarters. I was advised by the National Secretary, Mr. Woodward, that Montana did not have a society or a chapter, as it had been dissolved some years ago. However, my papers were approved on the National level and Mr. Woodward asked if I would be willing to reactivate the Montana Society. I agreed to do this and with the able assistance of Inez Hecox, then registrar of the Montana DAR Society here, I was able to process 40 members within the state, with the local chapter being formed here as the Sourdough Chapter. I was very capably assisted by Mr. Howard Thompson. He is still living as of this date, and lives in a retirement home in Spokane, Washington.

It was interesting in that our national organization had over \$540.00 in funds from when the Montana Society was previously declassified and which was later returned to us on our completion of the Sourdough Chapter and the Montana Society here in Bozeman.

Also the Montana deactivated Society was used by the National Society for the enlistment of people who were accepted for membership but, for some reason or another did not fit or want to belong to their state organization. This included past United States President Lyndon Johnson and a Greek General. I do not know much about the previous active organization except that I found in a history book that in 1902 there was a plan to construct a state headquarters building in Helena. I understand that at that time there were a number of state legislators, judges and other state government workers who were members.

Since our reorganization we have attempted to form other chapters in addition to the local Sourdough Chapter in Bozeman. These efforts were successful in Great Falls. They have to date been unsuccessful in Missoula, Butte and Billings. The difference in success or failure was because in Great Falls the local DAR Chapter Registrar cooperated and assisted in helping to form the chapter there.

I have found that the reasons for failure in the effort to form further chapters is related to differences in political orientation and a lack of dedication from the existing members in the area. I wish to attest at this time that for any political organization to capture a SAR Chapter for their own political purposes dooms the organization to failure. We had this same effort here in the Sourdough Chapter with a drop of almost 50 per cent in membership, but we survived here. Also any further attempts to form more than the two chapters in the state should begin by having the dues put into a separate account and then turned over to the proposed chapter after there are about 15 members ready to join. This with the cooperation of the DAR Registrar would be a big step in forming another chapter in the state.

I, Carroll Henderson, have served in various offices in the Montana Society and Sourdough Chapter, including being Intermountain Vice-President General two times.

In a state this large with few residents, it is essential that we continue to seek new members who will be supporters of our causes.

There are many lessons to be learned from Compatriot Henderson's observations, and it is hoped that those reading this document will take these to heart.



Another history of Montana Society - SAR was left for us by **Compatriot Jim Paugh**, who played a critical role not only in the re-establishment of the Montana Society - SAR, but also the Sourdough Chapter - SAR in Bozeman.

MTSSAR Secretary Francis Weigand wrote a fitting tribute for Jim when the Montana Society- SAR gratefully presented Jim with the Patriot Medal, which "represents long, faithful and outstanding service to the State Society and to the Chapter" in 2016.

A portion of Secretary Weigand's tribute from the 2016 Annual Meeting is quoted verbatim:

Now, not every Annual Meeting recorded the attendance. But, in every one that did, since 1973, Jim Paugh's name is there. Jim's contributions have not gone unnoticed. In 2007, Jim received the Meritorious Service Award and the Military Service Award

from the State. And then in 2010, Jim received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Sourdough Chapter.

This year, the Sourdough Chapter has put Jim Paugh's name forward to receive two more awards. The first is one of two of the highest awards that can be offered by a State Society. It is the Patriot Medal. It represents long, faithful and outstanding service to the State Society and to the Chapter.

Jim has been a shining example of dedicated service. For these reasons, we have two honors we would like to bestow on him. The first is one of two of the highest awards that can be offered by a State Society. It is the Patriot Medal. It represents long, faithful and outstanding service to the State Society and to the Chapter. The medal is accompanied by a certificate.

The second award is the 45 Years Service pin. It, too, is accompanied by a certificate.

In Jim's case, it is only fitting that these two awards be presented together since Jim has proven to be a dedicated member who has, for the last 45 years, given of himself for the betterment of his Chapter and his State Society.

History of the Montana Society - SAR

by Jim Paugh

The Montana Society of SAR was reorganized at Bozeman, Montana on October 14, 1972. This was done through the efforts of Compatriot Carroll V. Henderson who had recently become a Member of the NSSAR. Through the efforts of Compatriot Henderson many new memberships were accepted. There was also considerable help provided by VP General Howard Thompson of the Inter-mountain District and VP Lark Harris of the Pacific District. The Sourdough Chapter was chartered at this time.

One of our first activities was the establishment of February 22 as our Annual meeting, which was to be a dinner with entertainment. This has been done every year since then. In 1975, we started a program of presenting a Good Citizen Award to an outstanding citizen of the community. This has been continued.

In 1973, we gave an ROTC medal and that has continued. The first year it was given only at Montana State University and after they reopened the ROTC program at the University of Montana we have presented Medals at both ROTC units.

On April 4, 1975, the Montana Society hosted the Inter-mountain District Convention and was privileged to have President-General Clark as our guest.

For the years of 1975 and 1976 the Sourdough Chapter of SAR requested the assistance of the IME and we set up a committee of other public spirited people in the community and sponsored a 4th of July celebration. This celebration included games,

booths, band concerts, patriotic singing and was concluded with a large fireworks display. After these two years the group turned over \$2000.00 to a civic club for the continuation of the fireworks.

As a part of the Bi-Centennial celebration there was a program to enlarge and improve the Three Rivers State Park. This is the headwaters of the Missouri and Lewis and Clark spent several days here as they explored this area. The Sourdough Chapter of the SAR and the Mt. Hyalite Chapter of the DAR paid for the establishment of the flagpole at this Park. This flagpole was dedicated on July 26, 1980.

We are having trouble keeping our Members and it is slow to get new ones. It seems impossible to get other Chapters started but we shall persevere.

The period after Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution was reorganized again was a time of slow growth, but that changed over the next two decades.

Sourdough Chapter led the way under the able leadership of Carroll Henderson and Jim Paugh. Both held state offices as well as serving as chapter officers. Other Compatriots gave their support and volunteered their time and energy to start the process of rebuilding MTSSAR.

The Annual Meeting of 1982 was held in a Compatriot Roy Johnston's house. Activities described at the meeting included awarding a Good Citizen award and and ROTC award. Secretary-Treasurer Paul Davidson submitted his resignation from that position, one that he had served since 1976. Another Compatriot was "persuaded to become the next Secretary-Treasurer."

The 1989 Annual Meeting was among the first to emphasize the growth of MTSSAR, at that time reaching sixty members with the addition of Portage Chapter, which was formed in 1987.

Portage Chapter created the first Color Guard that participated in the Montana Centennial Parade in Great Falls. Portage Chapter was instrumental in purchasing flags representing the Revolutionary War. Compatriot Tom Howard created the stand that holds all of the flags. An article in the Great Falls Tribune described how Portage Chapter decided to collect these flags and use them in the 1989 Montana Centennial Parade in Great Falls. (*Great Falls Tribune*, July 20, 1989, p 4) This flag set has found its way from Great Falls, to the Flathead Valley and now to Helena.

It is certainly fitting that this history recognize the contributions of the Portage Chapter Compatriots that contributed this flag set for MTSSAR, which also contributed flags to supplement this project.

Portage Chapter - MTSSAR Flag Set Donors

FLAG DONATIONS FOR COLOR GAURD	
Grand Union Flag.....	Richard Hughes
Philadelphia Light Horse Brigade & S.A.R. Flag.....	Eugene Graft
1st. Continental Regiment Flag.....	Donald LaBar
Bennington Flag.....	Bill & Owen Bronson
Bunker Hill Flag.....	Jim Basta
Bedford Flag.....	David Graft & Walt Walker
Culpepper Flag.....	Howard Family
	Tom, Larry, & Doc
First Navy Jack, Fort Moultrie, & Washington's Cruisers.....	Thoroughman Family
	James P.
	James L.
	Richard
	Robert
	Todd
Betsy Ross Flag, Pine Tree, Taunton, Gadsen, Rhode Island Regiment, Star Spangled Banner.....	Montana Society

By 1999, MTSSAR's membership was at 41 members.

But by 2012, MTSSAR's membership had grown to over 80 members with the possibility of having close to 87 members by the end of that year. According to the 2012 newsletter, MTSSAR was the "second largest State Society in the Intermountain District."

Glacier Chapter - SAR was formed in 2011, the first state chapter to be created since Portage Chapter was created in 1987. MTSSAR also launched its first website, created by then Glacier Chapter Founder and President Lon Brown. Brown continued to update the website until he moved to Washington.

MTSSAR's growth was facilitated by the work by the MSDAR, where "71% of the applications that were submitted to MTSSAR came through the efforts of MSDAR."

Chapter reports showed that Glacier Chapter held a picnic with local DAR chapters and placed a display in the Flathead County Library in Kalispell. Sourdough Chapter continued its annual George Washington birthday celebration and awarded medals to MSU ROTC cadets and Eagle Scouts. Portage Chapter held its first meeting since 2008 and set a future meeting date in 2013.

The formation of local chapters continued into the most recent decade, with the creation of Liberty Tree Chapter in Missoula, Montana Continentals Chapter in Dillon/Butte and the Guardian Chapter in Helena.

Liberty Tree Chapter has been quite active since its creation. It would take a few pages to list its many activities and accomplishments. Highlights include the induction of Doolittle Raider David Thatcher in 2016, having a July 4th encampment at Fort Missoula every year, awarding several medals and certificates of appreciation to World War II veterans, an active Color Guard that participates in parades and naturalization ceremonies, and celebrations of George

Washington's birthday every February 22nd. Liberty Tree Chapter also hosted NSSAR President-General Larry Guzy.

An article in the *Missoulian* (April 16, 2017) summarized the significance of both Liberty Tree and MTSSAR:

"I'm hoping that our organization will help to continue to keep the flame alive of the reasons why we became an independent nation and why it's important to study the Revolution time frame," said Jim Hutcheson, an Army veteran and charter member of the Missoula chapter. "Because of our country, many, many other countries have followed suit (in gaining independence.) Our own young people need to continue to know why we were founded and how they can be of service to the nation going forward."

The Montana Continentals Chapter based in Dillon/Butte has also been active. Chapter President Bob Gunderson created a float that has been used during the Dillon Labor Day Parade for several years. There is a discussion about making the float a more permanent structure that can be used by other chapters around the state.

The Guardian Chapter in Helena is the newest chapter of the Montana Society - SAR and although it is new, it is active. Guardian Chapter's Color Guard participated in the September 17th Constitution Day ceremonies at the Capital rotunda in Helena, complementing the ceremony that was hosted by Oro Fino Chapter - DAR.

Glacier Chapter, too, has had a few accomplishments in its brief existence. Glacier Chapter's main activity is the annual Wreaths Across America celebration at the Montana Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls. Guest speakers are invited to speak at the Veteran's Home, including Gov. Steve Bullock, Maj.Gen. Matthew Quinn - Adjutant-General of Montana and in 2018, Col. Beverly Schneider, an officer with the United States Air Force. Residents of the Montana Veteran's Home place ceremonial wreaths honoring each branch of the military and POWs/MIAs. Glacier Chapter has participated with other local chapters in naturalization ceremonies and regular flag placement at the Montana Veteran's Home Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Sourdough Chapter, based in Bozeman, was the glue that held MTSSAR together during those lean years. Current Sourdough Chapter President John Rice submitted the following regarding Sourdough's history:

History of the Sourdough Chapter

The Sourdough Chapter of the MTSSAR was chartered in Bozeman, MT on October 14, 1972 at the same time that the MTSSAR was reorganized through the efforts of Compatriots Carroll V. Henderson and Dr. Robert Van Woert. The establishment of the Sourdough Chapter was helped considerably by National

Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) Intermountain District Vice President General Howard Thompson and Vice President Mark Harris of the Pacific District. It was also aided by the MSDAR and special recognition was given to Miss Marjorie A. Stevenson (Billings), MSDAR Regent; Mrs. R. F. Brister (Bozeman), MSDAR Mount Hyalite Chapter Regent, and Mrs. Inez C Hecox, (Belgrade) MSDAR member. At the banquet that night, SAR Vice President General J. Mark Ferris installed Dr. Van Woert as Sourdough Chapter President and Erving V. Hintspeter, Jr. as Secretary / Treasurer. Greetings were read from Lyndon B. Johnson, former President of the United States and a Montana Society member.

In 1973 the Sourdough Chapter gave an ROTC medal and certificate to an MSU cadet and that tradition still continues today with both the Army ROTC and Air Force ROTC.

NSAR President Dr. M. Graham Clark, President of the School of the Ozarks, was the featured speaker at the SAR Intermountain District Convention and Bicentennial Banquet in Bozeman, MT on April 4, 1775, which commemorated the battles of Lexington and Concord. Members of the Sourdough Chapter and Mount Hyalite Chapter as well as other MTSSAR and MTSDAR members attended.

For the years of 1975 and 1976 the Sourdough Chapter requested the assistance of the MSDAR and set up a committee of other public-spirited people in the community to sponsor a 4th of July celebration. This celebration included games, booths, band concerts, patriot singing, and was concluded with a large fireworks display. After these two years the group turned over \$2,000 to a civic club for the continuation of the fireworks. As part of the Bi-Centennial Celebration there was a program to enlarge and improve the Three Rivers State Park. This is the headwaters of the Missouri River, where Lewis and Clark spent several days exploring the area. The Sourdough Chapter and the Mount Hyalite Chapter paid for the establishment of the Park flagpole, which was dedicated on July 26, 1980.

The MTSSAR and Sourdough Chapter held a meeting on December 18, 1986. It was decided to start the SAR Eagle Scout Program for the State of Montana. At the Washington's Birthday Dinner on February 22, 1987, Peter Papalone was presented the Eagle Scout Trophy. Dr. Philip Gray presented the Good Citizenship Award to Mr. Ed Sedivy.

On January 5, 1989, a meeting of the Sourdough Chapter was held at the Bozeman Elks Club. Stuart Wheeler was elected President; Phil Gray was elected Vice President, and Carroll Henderson was elected Registrar; Roy Johnston was elected Secretary /Treasurer. It was decided that the Chapter should get Revolutionary War flags and display them at the Sweet Pea Festival in Bozeman and possibly at the Belgrade Fall Festival.

On May 6, 1989 James Paugh, a Sourdough Chapter member and Vice President General for the Intermountain District, opened the Intermountain District Meeting in Bozeman.

On June 5, 1991 Gene Graft was in Bozeman and the Chapter celebrated the 100th birthday of the beginning of the MTSSAR.

At the Sourdough Chapter meeting on April 24, 1997, it was approved that the Sourdough Chapter send \$500 to the State Society to forward to the Korean War Memorial in Missoula.

The Sourdough Chapter became inactive in August 2016 due to lack of meeting participation despite the fact that there were almost twenty members, most of whom were scattered across southeast Montana. At the MTSSAR Annual Meeting in Helena in April 2017 John W. Rice (Bozeman) and William Jones (Harlowton) volunteered to reactivate the Sourdough Chapter and they did so at a meeting on 22 May 2018, at which Rice was elected President, James Lindley (Big Sky) Vice President, and Jones was elected Secretary/Treasurer. John Robinson, MTSSAR Registrar, was elected Sourdough Chapter Registrar.

On 7 October 2017 and on 22 September 2018 the Sourdough Chapter hosted the MTSSAR Fall Meetings at the Bozeman Library. On 31 March 2018 the MTSSAR Sourdough Chapter held an information workshop at the Bozeman Library in conjunction with the MTSDAR Hyalite Chapter on the history of the two societies. It conducted a similar briefing for the Park County Genealogical Society in Livingston, MT on 24 April 2014.

We are now celebrating 125 years as a State Society of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. At some future time, perhaps at the 150th anniversary of MTSSAR, another writer will improve on this history and add even more compelling information that will tell the story of our society.

Acknowledgements

No history can be written without the kind assistance of others. My wife, Linnea, a member of Oro Fino Chapter - DAR, provided any editing that was necessary and gave useful suggestions to make this history flow more smoothly.

John Robinson directed me to the NSSAR website where copies of the NSSAR Yearbooks were available. This was a real starting point for me in learning about and understanding the early history of MTSSAR

Francis Weigand and Dan Elliot read early drafts of this document and provided valued criticism and suggestions. They also pointed out areas where the history needed corrections. TC Richardson and John Rice also read an earlier draft and provided feedback that made this document better.

Francis has tracked and kept records of all of the officers of MTSSAR from its creation to now. I appreciate his sharing those files with me.

The Montana Historical Society website contains digitized and searchable copies of many Montana newspapers. This made finding information a little less problematic.

Roscoe Montgomery sat next to me at the September 22, 2018, Semi-Annual meeting and handed me a stack of documents that he had kept over the years that helped to solidify the period of MTSSAR history during the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s.

Carroll Henderson, James Paugh, Sourdough Chapter and MTSSAR created a booklet in 2004 that really was a brief history of MTSSAR since 1972. I am fortunate to have a copy of that booklet.

Oro Fino Chapter member Gale Kramlick and MTSSAR State Regent Jane Hammon gave much needed information regarding style and page length. Gale also sent me some historic newspaper articles that were in the MSDAR records.

The multiple references to **Montana Society - Daughters of the the American Revolution** are critical to understanding and appreciating how much MSDAR has contributed to the success of MTSSAR. We have an excellent relationship with our sisters of MSDAR, one that I hope will continue to flourish in the decades to come.

Past Presidents - Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution

1895 Decius Wade	1978
1896 Charles Benton	1979 James T. Paugh
1902 Henry Blake	1980
1903 Frank Crowell	1981 Roy Johnston
1904 Charles Perry	1982 Roy Johnston
1905 Ogden Southmayd	1983 Gene Graft
1907 R.H. Howey	1984 Gene Graft
1910 William Chessman	1985
1912 Leslie Sulgrove	1986 James T. Paugh
1913 Leslie Sulgrove	1987 James T. Paugh
1914 John Scott Harrison	1988
1915 Oliver T. Crane	1989 Gene Graft
1916 Cornelius Hedges, Jr.	1990 Gene Graft
1918 William Rush Burroughs	1991 Gene Graft
1919 William Rush Burroughs	1992 Gene Graft
1920 Leslie Berry Sulgrove	1993 Gene Graft
1922 Lyman H. Bennett	1994
1923 John Nevin Wolfe	1995
1927 Wyllys Anderson	1996 Walt Walker
1929 Dr. Robert Wilson Getty	1997 Phil Gray
1930 Dr. Edward Gregory Ellis	1998 Dr. Robert Wiprud, (d Dec
1931 Harold Jamison Knowlton	1998 Ted Williams
1932 Hugo Martin Marquardt	1999 Ted Williams
1933 Francis (Frank) Wright Sharp	2000 Ted Williams
1935 Alfred Goodrich Badger	2001 Ted Williams
1936 Arthur White	2002 Roscoe Montgomery
1937 Clinton Roos, Sr.	2003 Roscoe Montgomery
1939 Washington Jay McCormick	2004 Roscoe Montgomery
1940 Ranney Yale Lyman	2005
1941 Chief Justice Howard Johnson	2006
1947 Rev. Walter Darragh Kemis	2007
1948 Newell Gough, Jr.	2008
1949 Dougan Lueben	2009 John Bancroft
1950 Robert B. Stevens	2010
1960 Raymond Dockstader	2011 John Bancroft
1965 Sam W. Clutton	2012 John Bancroft
1972 Carroll Henderson	2013
1973 Carroll Henderson	2014 Guy Frederick McCracken
1974 Carroll Henderson	2015 Guy Frederick McCracken
1975	2016 Larry Mylnechuk - interim
1976	2017 Larry Mylnechuk
1977 James T. Paugh	2018 Larry Mylnechuk